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NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

January 2015

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of CTC,

Happy New Year! I do hope that 2015 will be a good, healthy, happy and prosperous year for you all. I am delighted to welcome a new cohort of students taking our 18-month A level programme, and of course our new parents, to CTC. It has been lovely meeting them over the past few days. Sadly, the good old British weather has been less welcoming: both cold and wet! However, it is good to report that we are full on this 18-month course following a successful recruitment drive.

Staffing News

At the end of term we said farewell to two members of staff: Mrs Nsiah (ICT) - she has been replaced by Mr Christophe Wilson, a former student here at CTC; Mrs Bose (Library) - Mr Houssen becomes our full time librarian assisted by Mrs Dinah Lowde. We also welcome our new Admissions Officer, Mrs Sally-ann Jackson who was previously Academic Registrar at Spurgeon's College. It is also good to see Dr Nash (Economics/Business) back in College.

Oxbridge success

Our student applicants to Oxford and Cambridge are now hearing from them. At the time of writing I am delighted to report an increased number of conditional offers. To date we have four! This is wonderful news and I congratulate them and their teachers on these offers. They now have the best incentive to work even harder until the exams are over next term (!).

The term ahead

This is going to be a very busy term indeed. The Governors (Council) are discussing the five year plan (Vision 2020) for the College which includes a number of new projects, not least the possible building of a new science centre.

For the first time we will run a pilot one term intensive English language course here from April. And looking further ahead, we are preparing for new courses in September.

You may know that many A levels are changing from September (for example all the Sciences, Economics etc.) with new methods of assessment and syllabus content. The Department for Education is also introducing a number of new GCSE courses from September too (e.g. Mathematics), so we are being kept on our toes by our political masters. In addition, we are also introducing two new courses here from September: a one year fast track A level course and a Foundation (non GCSE) A level course.

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Information on your children

You should know who your son/daughter's Personal Tutor is and they should be the first port of call for you if you have any queries. You may also access details of your son/daughter's progress from the website and if you have not got access details (this is particularly relevant for new parents) then please contact judy.lowe@ctc.ac.uk who will help you.

Fees

Thank you to all parents who pay their College fees on time; this really helps us! Outstanding fees for GCSE and two-year A level students are due by 2nd February at the latest.

Some of you have asked for next year's fees. These will be set by Council towards the end of this term. However, I am very conscious of costs for you and we will do everything we can to keep any changes to a minimum.

And finally...

We live in interesting times. The recent tragic events in Paris serve to remind us all of the importance of promoting the values of internationalism - to which the College and everyone working here are deeply committed - even more strongly. I truly believe that the pen is mightier than the sword and that we must cherish and protect freedom of speech as a lynchpin of democracy.

More broadly, for those of you interested in politics, we approach a General Election here on 7th May. Education always seems to be a political issue and so I will watch with interest what the politicians have to say over the coming weeks.

With every good wish

Mark Eagers
Principal